

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FOR: Assistant to DD/I (NSC and National Estimates)

**SUBJECT:**

Increased Sharing with Selected Allies of  
Scientific Information Relating to Military  
Research and Development, and Its Application

**REFERENCE:**

NSC Action No. 1804

25X1A9A

1. [REDACTED] of this Office, who acts as CIA Observer on the State-Defense Military Information Control Committee, has informed me that this Committee, pursuant to the reference, has proposed an amendment to the President's Directive of 25 May 1953 (Subject: "Making Classified Security Information Available to Foreign Nationals").

2. The S-D MICC has recommended that paragraph 1 of the President's Directive be amended to read as follows:

1. I shall henceforth hold responsible the head of each department and agency in the Executive Branch for insuring that United States classified security information is made available to foreign governments only after determination that the furnishing of such information will result in a net advantage to the interests of the United States.

3. If adopted, the effect of the above recommendation will be (1) to change the present wording of "foreign nationals" to "foreign governments" and (2) to delete the present requirement of a "need-to-know basis" as a condition of release. It is the thinking of the S-D MICC that an official release by this Government is made not to a foreign national but rather to the government itself. As to the deletion of the "need-to-know" requirement, the Committee is of the view that the required application of both "need-to-know" and "net advantage" is confusing and unrealistic since the fundamental motivation and justification for any foreign disclosure of United States classified information must necessarily be "net advantage". In addition, the "need-to-know" criterion is difficult, if not impracticable, to assess with any precision when dealing with a foreign government.

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4. In the S-D MICO meeting of 27 November, the State Member said that the recommendation to amend the President's Directive of 25 May 1953 had been approved by Mr. Robert Murphy. The State Member said further that when the approval of this recommendation also had been obtained from the Secretary of Defense, that State intended to officially present the recommendation to the National Security Council through the State Member of the Planning Board.

5. If the 25 May 1953 Presidential Directive is changed in accordance with the foregoing, it is not considered that there will be any effect upon this Agency inasmuch as, by supplementary memorandum of 25 May 1953, the President authorized CIA and certain other intelligence agencies to waive the requirement of "need-to-know" when it was determined to be of net advantage to the United States.

WHEU

Sheffield Edwards  
Director of Security

cc: DD/P  
DD/S ✓